

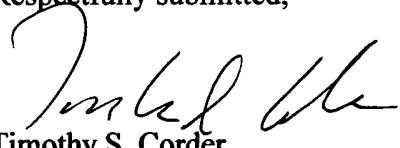
REMARKS

Applicants submit that the current Restriction Requirement was issued in error and was made without considering the Preliminary Amendment that was filed concurrently with the present application. The Restriction Requirement is directed to claims 1-25, but those claims were canceled in a Preliminary Amendment filed October 22, 2003, concurrently with the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the previously filed Preliminary Amendment prior to issuing a Restriction Requirement or an Action on the merits.

Claims 1-25 have previously been canceled and new 26-105 have been added. Claims 26-105 are currently in the case.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and solicit an early indication to that effect. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions that would more quickly progress the claims to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at 512.542.8446.

Respectfully submitted,



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